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(TITLE OF THE INVENTION) ELECTROLESS Ni-B PLATING LIQUID,  
ELECTRONIC DEVICE AND METHOD FOR MANUFACTURING THE SAME

(CLAIMS)

5 (CLAIM 1) An electroless Ni-B plating liquid for forming a Ni-B alloy film on at least part of interconnects of an electronic device having an embedded interconnect structure, said electroless Ni-B plating liquid comprising nickel ions, a complexing agent for said nickel ions, an alkylamine borane or 10 a hydrogen boride compound as reducing agent for said nickel ions, and ammonia ions ( $\text{NH}_4^+$ ), and a pH of said electroless Ni-B plating liquid being adjusted within the range from 8 to 12.

15 (CLAIM 2) The electroless Ni-B plating liquid according to claim 1, wherein said ammonia ions are prepared from ammonia water.

(CLAIM 3) An electronic device having an embedded interconnect structure of silver, silver alloy, copper or copper alloy, wherein a surface of an interconnect is selectively covered with a protective film of a Ni-B alloy film.

20 (CLAIM 4) A method for manufacturing a electronic device, comprising:

25 forming a protective film of a Ni-B alloy film selectively on a surface of an interconnect of an electronic device having an embedded interconnect structure by an electroless-plating process with use of an electroless Ni-B plating liquid according to claim 1 or 2.

(DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION)

(0001)

(TECHNICAL FIELD TO WHICH THE INVENTION BELONGS)

The present invention relates to an electroless Ni-B plating liquid, an electronic device and a method for manufacturing the same. More particularly, the present invention relates to an 5 electroless Ni-B plating liquid useful for forming a protective film for protecting the surfaces of the interconnects of an electronic device which has such an embedded interconnect structure that an electric conductor, such as silver or copper, is embedded in fine recesses for interconnects formed in the 10 surface of a substrate such as a semiconductor substrate, and to an electronic device having the interconnects-protecting film formed by using the plating liquid, and a method for manufacturing the same.

(0002)

15 (PRIOR ART)

As a process for forming interconnects in an electronic device, the so-called "damascene process" which comprises filling trenches for interconnects and contact holes with a metal (electric conductor), is coming into practical use. According 20 to this process, aluminum or, more recently a metal such as silver or copper, is filled into trenches for interconnects and contact holes previously formed in the interlevel dielectric of a semiconductor substrate. Thereafter, an extra metal is removed by chemical mechanical polishing (CMP) so as to flatten the surface 25 of the substrate.

(0003)

In the case of interconnects formed by such a process, the embedded interconnects has exposed surfaces after the flattening

processing. When an additional embedded interconnect structure is formed on such exposed surfaces of interconnects of a semiconductor substrate, the following problems may be encountered. For example, during the formation of a new  $\text{SiO}_2$  5 in the next interlevel dielectric forming process, the exposed surfaces of the pre-formed interconnects are likely to be oxidized. Further, upon etching of the  $\text{SiO}_2$  film for formation of via holes, the pre-formed interconnects exposed on the bottoms of via holes can be contaminated with an etchant, a peeled resist, etc.

10 (0004)

In order to avoid such problems, it has conventionally been performed to form an interconnect-protective film of  $\text{SiN}$  or the like not only on the interconnect region of a semiconductor substrate where the interconnects are exposed, but on the entire 15 surface of the substrate, thereby preventing the contamination of the exposed interconnects with an etchant, etc.

(0005)

However, the provision of a protective film of  $\text{SiN}$  or the like on the entire surface of a semiconductor substrate, in an 20 electronic device having an embedded interconnect structure, increases the dielectric constant of the interlevel dielectric, thus inducing delayed interconnection even when a low-resistance material such as silver or copper is employed as an interconnect material, whereby the performance of the electronic device may 25 be impaired.

(0006)

In view of this, it may be considered to selectively cover the surfaces of the exposed interconnects with a Ni-B alloy film

having a good adhesion to an interconnect material such as silver or copper and having a low resistivity ( $\rho$ ). A plated Ni-B film, obtained by electroless Ni-B plating, is either a crystalline or an amorphous plated film depending on the boron content of 5 the film. In this regard, a crystalline plated film is obtained when the boron content of the film is less than 10 at%, and an amorphous plated film is obtained when the boron content of the film is 10 at% or more, generally.

(0007)

10 When a plated Ni-B film is used for the purpose of protecting the interconnects of an electronic device having an embedded interconnect structure, the plated film is required to be thermally stable. From this point of view, it is necessary to use a crystalline plated film having a boron content of less than 15 10 at%. This is because a crystalline plated Ni-B film maintains its crystallinity after a heat treatment, whereas an amorphous Ni-B plated film forms a Ni-B compound upon the heat treatment and thus becomes an unstable film.

(0008)

20 It has conventionally been performed experientially to reduce a boron content of the plated film, by increasing a pH of a plating liquid used for forming a Ni-B alloy film by electroless plating.

(0009)

25 (PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED BY THE INVENTION)

However, when an intended Ni-B film, for the purpose of protecting the interconnects of an electronic device having an embedded interconnect structure, is formed by electroless plating

by using a plating liquid that is formulated to provide a plated film having a lowered boron content, the plating rate is likely to become too high to make a proper control of the process.

(0010)

5        In this regard, in electroless plating, the reaction time is equal to the solid-liquid contact time between the plating liquid and an object to be plated. Further, a plated Ni-B film to be used for protecting the interconnects of an electronic device must be as thin as several tens to several hundreds nm, for example.  
10      Accordingly, an enhanced plating rate makes the process control more difficult.

(0011)

The present invention has been made in view of the above situation in the related art. It is therefore an object of the 15 present invention to provide an electroless Ni-B plating liquid which can lower the boron content of the resulting plated film without increasing the plating rate and form a Ni-B alloy film having an FCC crystalline structure, and also to provide an electronic device in which the interconnects are protected with 20 the plated film formed by electroless plating carried out by using the plating liquid, and a method for manufacturing the same.

(0012)

(MEANS FOR SOLVING THE PROBLEMS)

According to the present invention defined in claim 1, there 25 is provided an electroless Ni-B plating liquid for forming a Ni-B alloy film on at least part of interconnects of an electronic device having an embedded interconnect structure, the electroless Ni-B plating liquid comprising nickel ions, a complexing agent

for the nickel ions, an alkylamine borane or a hydrogen boride compound as reducing agent for the nickel ions, and ammonia ions ( $\text{NH}_4^+$ ), and a pH of the electroless Ni-B plating liquid being adjusted within the range from 8 to 12.

5 (0013)

By thus increasing the pH of the plating liquid to 8-12, it becomes possible to lower the boron content of the plated film and form a Ni-B alloy film having an FCC crystalline structure. The inclusion of ammonia ions ( $\text{NH}_4^+$ ) in the plating liquid can 10 lower the plating rate by ammonia ions ( $\text{NH}_4^+$ ) so as to thereby facilitate the process control. It is considered, in this regard, that an ammonia ion, due to its generally high chelating force, may form a complex with a nickel ion to thereby lower the plating rate. The pH of the plating liquid is preferably 9-12, more 15 preferably 10-12.

(0014)

According to the present invention defined in claim 2, the electroless Ni-B plating liquid according to claim 1, wherein the ammonia ions are prepared from ammonia water.

20 (0015)

According to the present invention defined in claim 3, there is provided an electronic device having an embedded interconnect structure of silver, silver alloy, copper or copper alloy, wherein a surface of an interconnect is selectively covered with a 25 protective film of a Ni-B alloy film.

(0016)

By thus selectively covering the surfaces of the interconnects and protecting the interconnects with the protective film of a

Ni-B alloy film that has a high adhesion to silver or copper and has a low resistivity ( $\rho$ ), an increase in the dielectric constant of the interlevel dielectric of an electronic device having an embedded interconnect structure can be suppressed. Further, the 5 use as an interconnect material of a low-resistance material, such as silver or copper, can attain speedup and densification of the electronic device.

(0017)

According to the present invention defined in claim 4, there 10 is provided a method for manufacturing an electronic device, comprising; forming a protective film of a Ni-B alloy film selectively on a surface of an interconnect of an electronic device having an embedded interconnect structure by an electroless-plating process with use of an electroless Ni-B 15 plating liquid according to claim 1 or 2.

(0018)

Plating with an electroless Ni-B plating liquid containing an alkylamine borane or a hydrogen boride compound as a reducing agent is known to be effected selectively onto silver or copper. 20 Thus, by immersing the substrate of an electronic device having an exposed surfaces of interconnects in the plating liquid, plating is effected selectively onto the exposed surfaces of interconnects.

(0019)

25 (EMBODIMENTS OF THE INVENTION)

Preferred embodiments of the present invention will now be described with reference to the drawings.

FIG. 1 illustrates, in a sequence of process steps, an example

of forming silver interconnects in an electronic device according to the present invention. As shown in FIG. 1(a), an insulating film 2 of  $\text{SiO}_2$  is deposited on a conductive layer 1a in which electronic devices are formed, which is formed on an electronic device substrate 1. A contact hole 3 and a trench 4 for interconnects are formed in the insulating film 2 by the lithography/etching technique. Thereafter, a barrier layer 5 of TaN or the like is formed on the entire surface, and a copper seed layer 6 as an electric supply layer for electroplating is formed on the barrier layer 5 by sputtering or the like.

(0020)

Then, as shown in FIG. 1(b), silver plating is performed onto the surface of the electronic device substrate 1 to fill the contact hole 3 and the trench 4 with silver and, at the same time, deposit a silver layer 7 on the insulating film 2. Thereafter, the silver layer 7 on the insulating film 2 is removed by chemical mechanical polishing (CMP) so as to make the surface of the silver layer 7 filled in the contact hole 3 and the trench 4 for interconnects and the surface of the insulating film 2 lie substantially on the same plane. Interconnects 8 composed of the copper seed layer 6 and the silver layer 7, as shown in FIG. 1(c), are thus formed in the insulating layer 2.

(0021)

Next, electroless Ni-B plating is performed onto the surface of the substrate 1 to selectively form a protective film 9 composed of a Ni-B alloy film of an FCC crystalline structure, having a boron content of 0.01 at% - 10 at%, on the exposed surfaces of the interconnects 8, thereby protecting the interconnects 8.

(0022)

The protective film 9 is formed selectively on the exposed surfaces of the interconnects 8 by using an electroless Ni-B plating liquid containing nickel ions, a complexing agent for 5 nickel ions, an alkylamine borane or a hydrogen boride compound as a reducing agent for nickel ions, and ammonia ions ( $\text{NH}_4^+$ ), a pH of the plating liquid being adjusted to 8-12, and dipping the surface of the substrate 1 in the plating liquid.

(0023)

10 The protection of the interconnects 8 by the provision of the protective film 9 can prevent, in forming thereon an additional embedded interconnect structure, the oxidation of the surfaces of the interconnects during formation of a new  $\text{SiO}_2$  in the next interlevel dielectric forming process, and the contamination of 15 the interconnects with an etchant or a peeled resist upon etching of the  $\text{SiO}_2$  film.

(0024)

Further, by selectively covering the surfaces of the interconnects 8 and protecting the interconnects 8 with the 20 protective film 9 of a Ni-B alloy film that has a high adhesion to silver as an interconnect material and has a low resistivity ( $\rho$ ), an increase in the dielectric constant of the interlevel dielectric of an electronic device having an embedded interconnect structure can be suppressed. Further, the use of as an 25 interconnect material of silver, which is a low-resistance material, can attain speedup and densification of the electronic device.

Though this example shows the use of silver as an interconnect

material, a silver alloy, copper or a copper alloy may also be used.

(0025)

In performing a CMP treatment onto the surface of the 5 substrate 1 in which the silver layer is filled, there is a case where in a relatively wide trench for interconnects, the surface of the interconnects 8 composed of the copper seed layer 6 and the silver layer 7 is dished, as shown in FIG. 8. When electroless 10 Ni-B plating is performed onto such a dished surface of the interconnects 8, the dished space is filled with the protective film 9 composed of the Ni-B alloy film, whereby the interconnects 8 can be prevented from being exposed.

(0026)

The present plating liquid for use in the electroless Ni-B 15 plating will now be described in detail below. The present plating liquid is characterized in that a pH of the plating liquid is adjusted to 8-12 by using ammonia water, thereby controlling the boron content of the protective film 9 (plated film) to less than 10 at% to provide the protective film 9 with an FCC crystalline 20 structure, and lowering the plating rate.

(0027)

First, a first plating liquid was prepared by using, as shown in Table 1 below, 0.02 M of  $\text{NiSO}_4 \cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$  as a supply source of divalent 25 nickel ions, 0.02 M of DL-malic acid and 0.03 M of glycine as complexing agents for nickel ions, and 0.02 M of DMAB (dimethylamine borane) as a reducing agent for nickel ions, and by adjusting the pH of the plating liquid to 5-12 by using ammonia water. Further, a second plating liquid was prepared in the same

manner as in the first plating liquid, except that the pH of the plating liquid is adjusted to 5-12 by using, instead of ammonia water, TMAH (tetramethylammonium hydroxide) which is widely used as a pH adjusting agent.

5 (0028)

(Table 1)

	First plating liquid	Second plating liquid
NiSO <sub>4</sub> · 6H <sub>2</sub> O	0.02 M	0.02 M
DMAB	0.02 M	0.02 M
DL-malic acid	0.02 M	0.02 M
Glycine	0.03 M	0.03 M
pH	pH = 5 - 12 with ammonia water	pH = 5-12 with TMAH
Temperature	60°C	60°C

10 Using the first plating liquid and the second plating liquid, electroless Ni-B plating was performed onto a semiconductor wafer on which a barrier layer (TaN, 20 nm) and a copper film (copper, 100 nm) had been formed by sputtering. By varying the pHs of the respective plating liquids within the pH range of 5-12, the 15 relationship between pH of plating liquid and electroless Ni-B plating rate, and between pH of plating liquid and B (boron) content of plated film was determined, the results of which are shown in FIGS. 2 and 3.

(0029)

20 As can be seen from FIG. 2, with respect to the electroless Ni-B plating liquid (first plating liquid) in which the pH is adjusted with ammonia water, the plating rate drastically

decreases when the pH exceeds 8, and lowers down to below 100 nm/min in a pH range of 9-12. Further, a Ni-B alloy film having a boron content of less than 10 at% can be obtained when the pH of the plating liquid increases to 8 or more.

5 (0030)

In contrast, it is apparent from FIG. 3 that in the case of the electroless Ni-B plating liquid (second plating liquid) in which the pH is adjusted with TMAH, though a Ni-B alloy film having a boron content of less than 10 at% may be obtained at 10 a pH exceeding 9, the plating rate increases with an increase in pH and reaches to a considerably high level at a pH exceeding 9.

(0031)

The above results show that it is preferred to use, as a 15 plating liquid for forming a interconnect-protective film of Ni-B alloy film in an electronic device having an embedded interconnect structure, an electroless Ni-B plating liquid whose pH is adjusted to 8-12 by using ammonia water.

(0032)

20 Next, the present plating liquid was prepared by using, as shown in Table 2 below, 0.02 M of  $\text{NiSO}_4 \cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$  as a supply source of divalent nickel ions, 0.02 M of DL-malic acid and 0.03 M of glycine as complexing agents for nickel ions, and 0.02 M of DMAB (dimethylamine borane) as a reducing agent for nickel ions, and 25 by adjusting a pH of the plating liquid to 10 with ammonia water and adjusting the temperature of the plating liquid to 60°C.

(0033)

(Table 2)

	The present plating liquid
<chem>NiSO4 · 6H2O</chem>	0.02 M
DMAB	0.02 M
DL-malic acid	0.02 M
Glycine	0.03 M
pH	pH = 10 with ammonia water
Temperature	60°C

5         Using the present plating liquid, electroless plating was  
 performed onto an electronic device substrate (semiconductor  
 wafer) on which a barrier layer (TaN, 20 nm) and a copper layer  
 (copper, 600 nm) had been formed by sputtering. The Ni-B alloy  
 film thus formed on the substrate had a thickness of 40 nm and  
 10        a boron content of 4.2 at%. The Ni-B alloy film was examined  
 on its oxidation resistance. The results are shown in Table 3.

(0034)

(Table 3)

15

	Sheet resistance (mΩ/sq)
After plating	30.5
After atmospheric heat treatment	28.7
After O <sub>2</sub> plasma ashing	30.1

Atmospheric heat treatment: in air, hot plate, 200°C, 30 min

O<sub>2</sub> plasma ashing: 1Torr, 800W, 250°C, 30 min.

As apparent from the results of Table 3, there is no  
 substantial change in the sheet resistance after either of the

oxidizing treatments, indicating good oxidation resistance of the Ni-B alloy film. This shows that the present plating liquid is suited for use as an electroless Ni-B plating liquid for forming an interconnect-protecting film of Ni-B alloy film in an 5 electronic device having an embedded interconnect structure.

(0035)

Next, using the present plating liquid having the composition shown in Table 2, electroless plating was performed onto a semiconductor wafer in which, after forming by sputtering a 10 barrier layer (TiN, 50 nm) and a seed layer (copper, 100 nm) on a substrate, a plated Ag film of 500 nm-thickness had been formed by using an electrolytic Ag plating liquid. The Ni-B alloy film was analyzed by X-ray diffractometry. The Ni-B alloy film thus formed on the substrate had a thickness of 40 nm and a boron content 15 of 4.2 at%. For comparison, two Ni-B alloy films having a boron content of 13.5 at% and of 20 at%, obtained by using commercial electroless Ni-B plating liquids, were also analyzed by X-ray diffractometry. The X-ray diffraction analysis was conducted on each sample before and after annealing performed in Ar gas 20 atmosphere at 400°C for 60 minutes.

(0036)

FIGS. 4(a) and 5(a) show the X-ray diffraction patterns of the Ni-B alloy film having a boron content of 4.2 at%, before and after the annealing, obtained by using the present plating 25 liquid; FIGS. 4(b) and 5(b) show the X-ray diffraction patterns of the Ni-B alloy film having a boron content of 13.5 at%, before and after the annealing, obtained by using the commercial plating liquid; and FIGS. 4(c) and 5(c) show the X-ray diffraction patterns

of the Ni-B alloy film having a boron content of 20 at%, before and after the annealing, obtained by using the commercial plating liquid.

(0037)

5 It is apparent from these Figures that the Ni-B alloy film having a boron content of 4.2 at%, obtained by using the present plating liquid, has an FCC crystalline structure, both before and after the annealing, whereas the Ni-B alloy films having a boron content of 13.5 at% and of 20 at%, obtained by using the 10 commercial plating liquids, are amorphous before the annealing, and become Ni + Ni<sub>3</sub>B (intermetallic compound) after the annealing.

(0038)

The X-ray diffraction data thus shows that the Ni-B alloy film obtained by using the present plating liquid is thermally 15 stable and can maintain the crystalline structure after undergoing a heat treatment. This indicates suitability of the present plating liquid for use as an electroless Ni-B plating liquid for forming an interconnect-protecting film of Ni-B alloy film in an electronic device having an embedded interconnect structure.

20 (0039)

Further, using the present plating liquid having the composition shown in Table 2, electroless plating was performed onto a substrate in which, after forming by sputtering a barrier layer (TiN, 50 nm) and a seed layer (copper, 100 nm) on an electronic 25 device substrate (semiconductor wafer), a plated Ag film of 500 nm-thickness had been formed by using an electrolytic Ag plating liquid. The Ni-B alloy film thus formed on the substrate had a thickness of 70 nm and a boron content of 4.8 at%. The Ni-B

alloy film was examined on its barrier properties. For comparison, the barrier properties of a Ni-B alloy film having a thickness of 90 nm and a boron content of 14.5 at%, obtained by using a commercial electroless Ni-B plating liquid, was also examined.

5 (0040)

FIG. 6 shows a state of the Ni-B alloy film having a boron content of 4.8 at% obtained by using the present plating liquid. FIGS. 6(a) and 6(b) show the results of AES analysis in the depth direction of the Ni-B alloy film before and after the annealing; 10 FIG. 6(c) shows the results of AES analysis of the surface of the annealed Ni-B alloy film. FIG. 7 shows a state of the Ni-B alloy film having a boron content of 14.5 at% obtained by the use of the commercial plating liquid. FIGS. 7(a) and 7(b) show the results of AES analysis in the depth direction of the Ni-B 15 alloy film before and after the annealing; and FIG. 7(c) shows the results of AES analysis of the surface of the annealed Ni-B alloy film.

(0041)

As apparent from these Figures, in the case of the Ni-B alloy 20 cover film having a boron content of 4.2 at%, obtained by using the present plating liquid, no copper diffusion is seen in the Ni-B alloy film, indicating that the present Ni-B alloy film functions as an excellent barrier to copper diffusion.

(0042)

25 (EFFECTS OF THE INVENTION)

As described hereinabove, according to the present invention, the electroless Ni-B plating liquid can lower the boron content of the plated film without increasing the plating rate and form

a Ni-B alloy film having an FCC crystalline structure. By using the present plating liquid, which can facilitate the process control, a protective film of Ni-B alloy film can be formed selectively on the interconnects of an electronic device having 5 an embedded interconnect structure. The present invention can thus contribute to speedup and densification in electronic devices.

(BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS)

(FIG. 1)

10 FIG 1 (a) through 1(c) are diagrams illustrating, in a sequence of process steps, an example of forming silver interconnects in an electronic device in accordance with the present invention.

(FIG. 2)

15 FIG. 2 is a graph showing the relationship between pH of plating liquid and electroless Ni-B plating rate, and between pH of plating liquid and B content of plated film when the pH of a plating liquid is adjusted with ammonia water.

(FIG. 3)

20 FIG. 3 is a graph showing the relationship between pH of plating liquid and electroless Ni-B plating rate and, between pH of plating liquid and B content of plated film when the pH of a plating liquid is adjusted with TMAH.

(FIG. 4)

25 FIG. 4 (a) shows an X-ray diffraction pattern of a Ni-B alloy film having a boron content of 4.2 at%, before annealing, obtained by the use of the present plating liquid; FIG. 4(b) shows an X-ray diffraction pattern of a Ni-B alloy film having a boron content

of 13.5 at%, before annealing, obtained by the use of a commercial plating liquid; and FIG. 4(c) shows an X-ray diffraction pattern of a Ni-B alloy film having a boron content of 20 at%, before annealing, obtained by the use of a commercial plating liquid.

5 (FIG. 5)

FIG. 5(a) shows an X-ray diffraction pattern of a Ni-B alloy film having a boron content of 4.2 at%, after annealing, obtained by the use of the present plating liquid; FIG. 5(b) shows an X-ray diffraction pattern of a Ni-B alloy film having a boron content of 13.5 at%, after annealing, obtained by the use of a commercial plating liquid; and FIG. 5(c) shows an X-ray diffraction pattern of a Ni-B alloy film having a boron content of 20 at%, after annealing, obtained by the use of a commercial plating liquid.

(FIG. 6)

15 FIG. 6(a) is a chart showing the results of AES analysis in the depth direction of a Ni-B alloy film having a boron content of 4.8 at%, before annealing, obtained by the use of the present plating liquid; FIG. 6(b) is a chart showing the results of AES analysis in the depth direction of the Ni-B alloy film, but after 20 annealing; and FIG. 6(c) is a chart showing the results of AES analysis of the surface of the annealed Ni-B alloy film.

(FIG. 7)

FIG. 7(a) is a chart showing the results of AES analysis in the depth direction a Ni-B alloy film having a boron content of 14.5 at%, before annealing, obtained by the use of a commercial plating liquid; FIG. 7(b) is a chart showing the results of AES analysis is the depth direction of the Ni-B alloy film, but after annealing; and FIG. 7(c) is a chart showing the results of AES

analysis of the surface of the annealed Ni-B alloy film.

(Fig. 8)

FIG. 8 is a cross-sectional diagram illustrating another example of forming a protective film in an electronic device in  
5 accordance with the present invention.

(DESCRIPTION OF THE REFERENCE NUMERALS AND SIGNS)

- 1 electronic device substrate
- 2 insulating film
- 3 contact hole
- 10 4 trench
- 5 barrier layer
- 6 copper seed layer
- 7 silver layer
- 8 interconnects
- 15 9 protective film (Ni-B alloy film)

(NAME OF DOCUMENT)

ABSTRACT

(ABSTRACT)

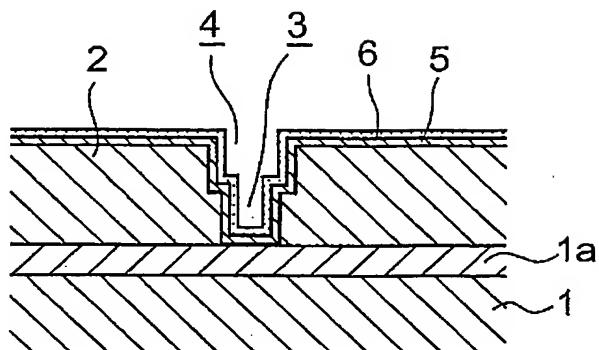
(PROBLEM) The present invention provides an electroless Ni-B plating liquid which can lower the boron content of the resulting 5 plated film without increasing the plating rate and form a Ni-B alloy film having an FCC crystalline structure.

(MEANS FOR RESOLUTION) There is provided an electroless Ni-B plating liquid for forming, a Ni-B alloy film on at least part of the interconnects of an electronic device having an embedded 10 interconnect structure, the electroless Ni-B plating liquid comprising nickel ions, a complexing agent for nickel ions, an alkylamine borane or a hydrogen boride compound as reducing agent for said nickel ions, and ammonia ions ( $\text{NH}_4^+$ ), and a pH of said electroless Ni-B plating liquid being adjusted within the range 15 from 8 to 12.

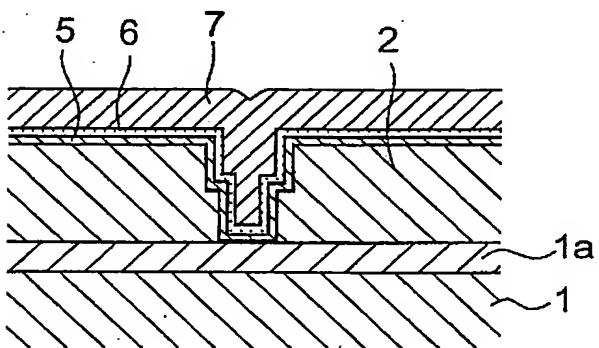
(Selected Figure) Fig. 1

Reference No. EB2385P  
(NAME OF DOCUMENT) DRAWINGS  
(FIG. 1)

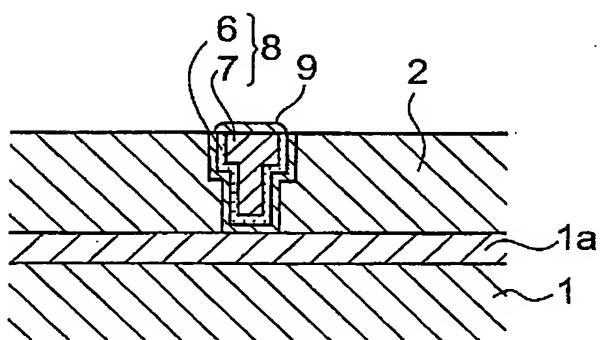
(a)



(b)



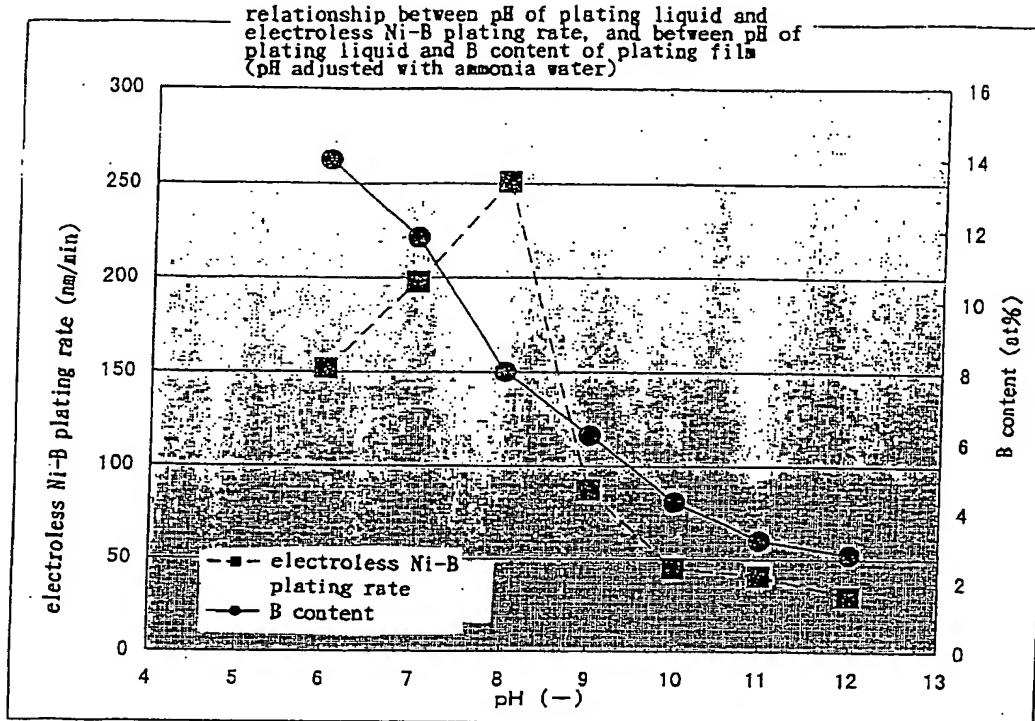
(c)



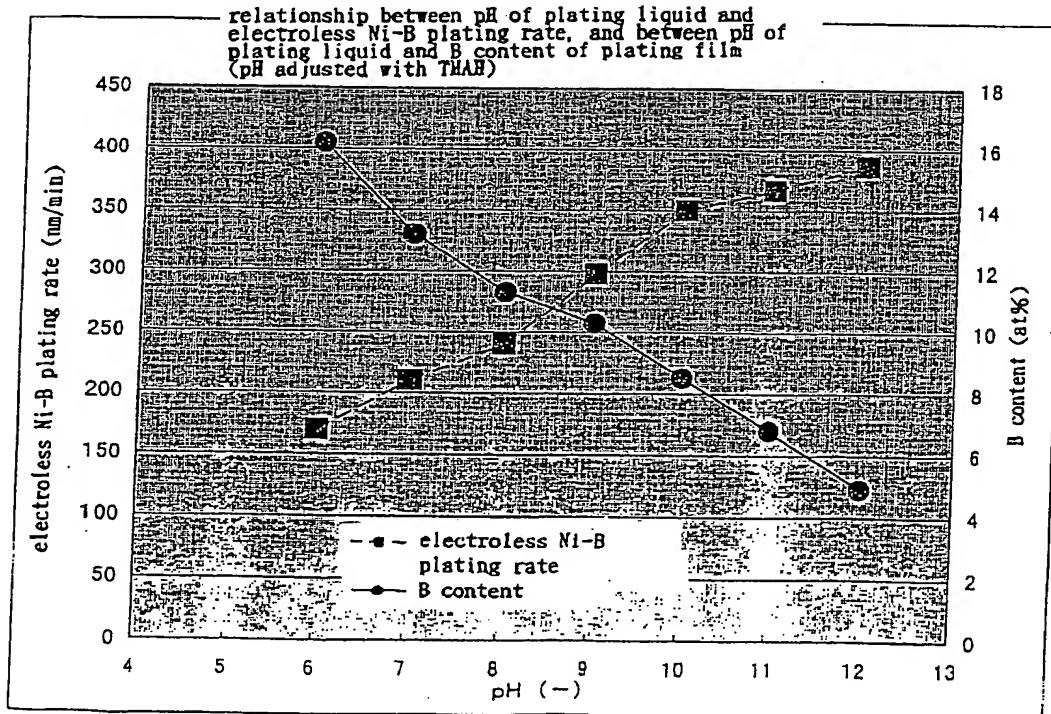
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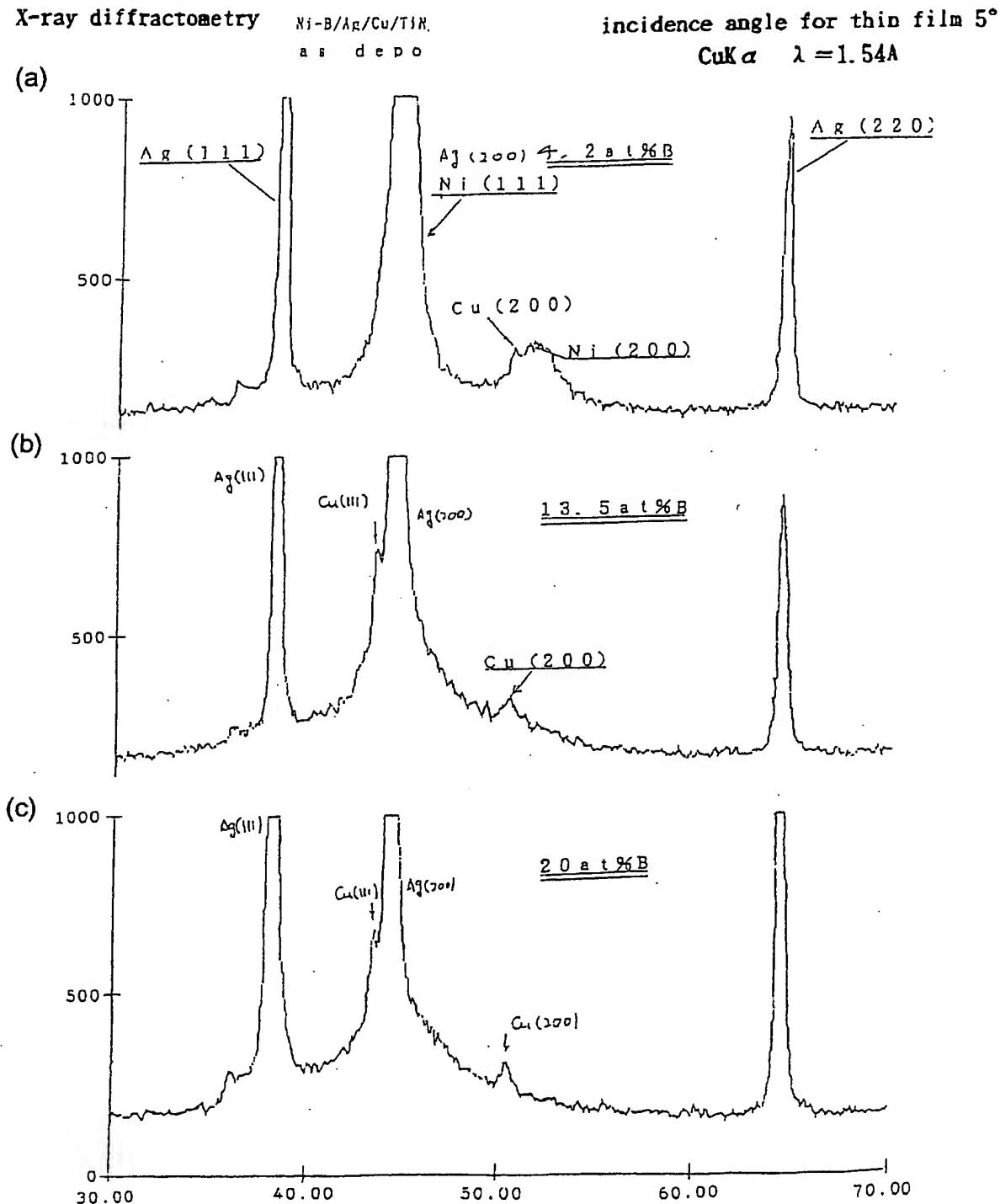
Reference No. EB2385P  
(NAME OF DOCUMENT) DRAWINGS  
(FIG. 2)

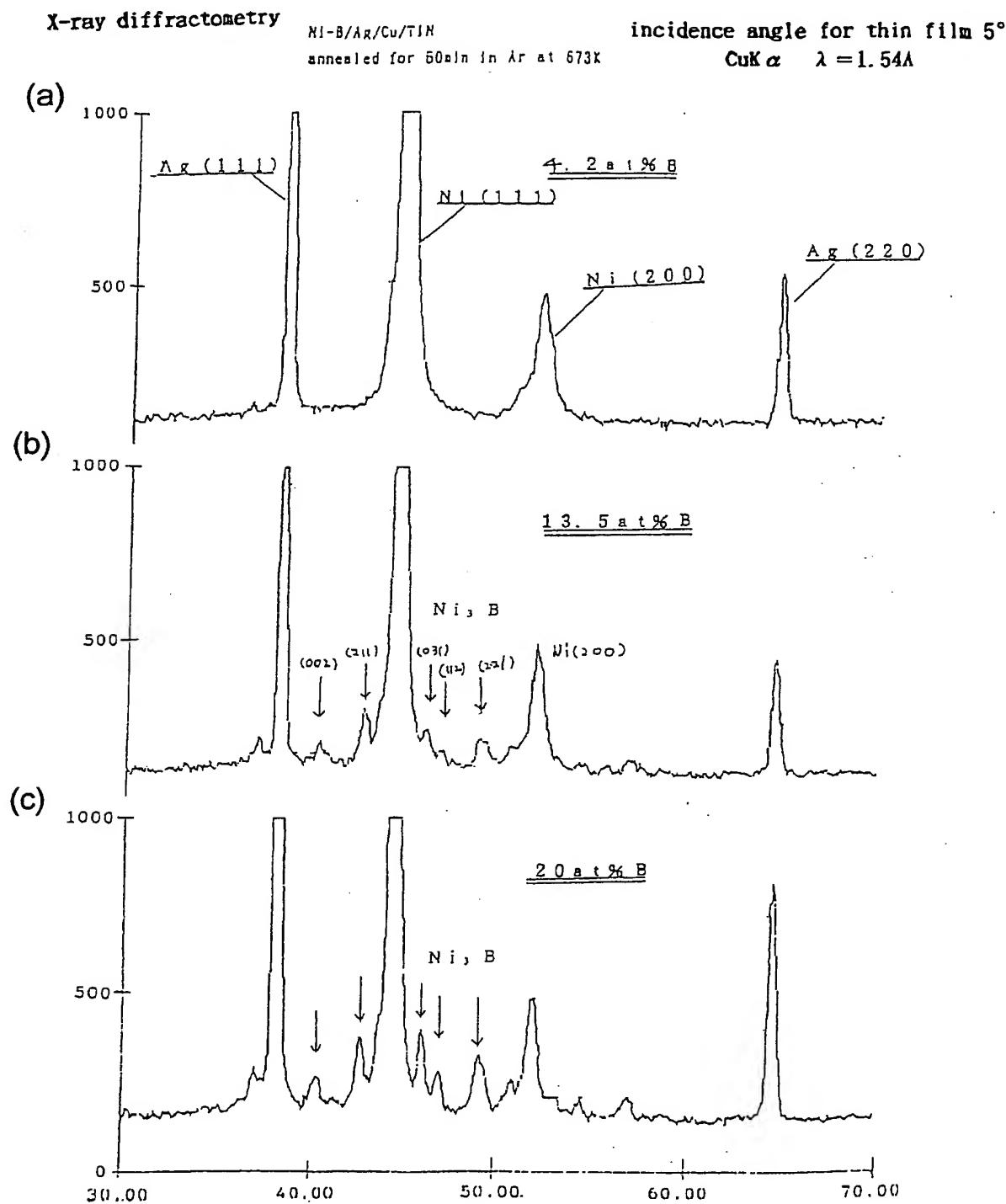
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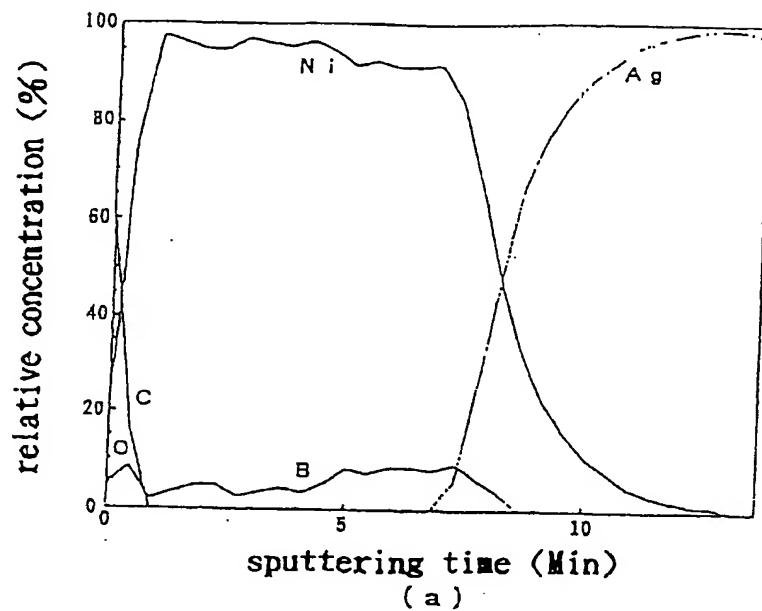


(FIG. 3)

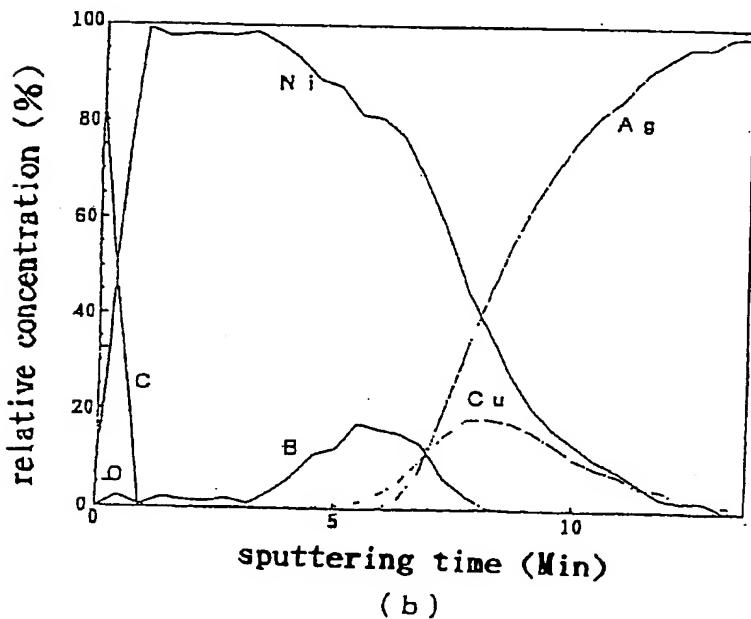




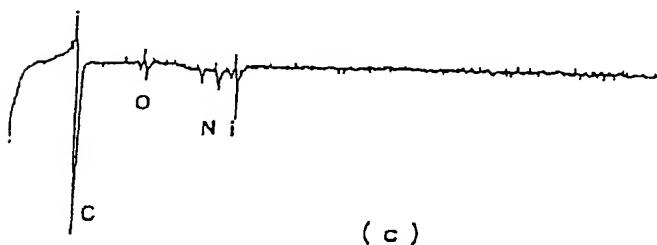




(a)

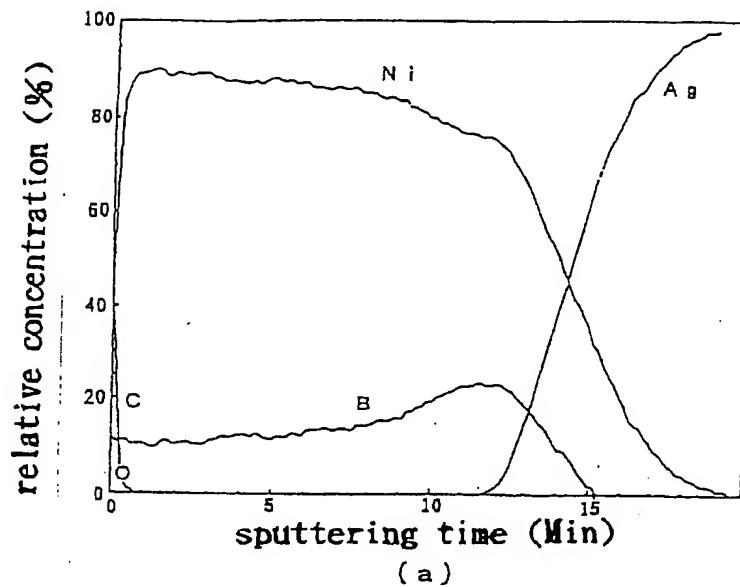


(b)

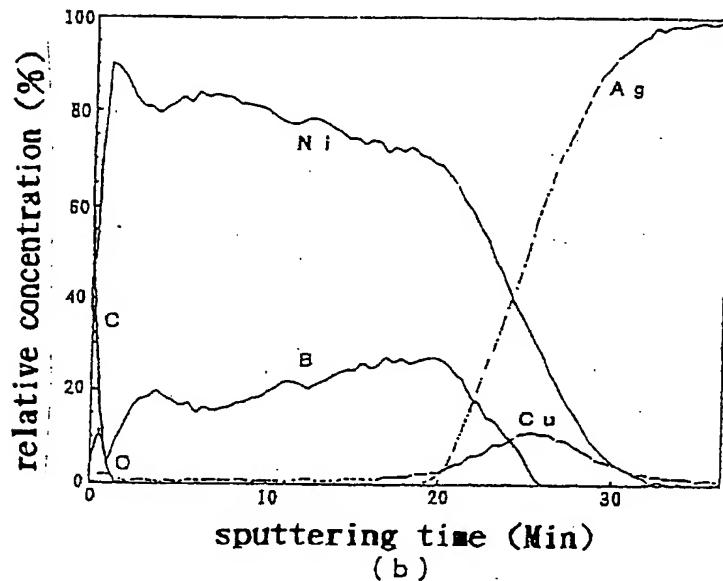


(c)

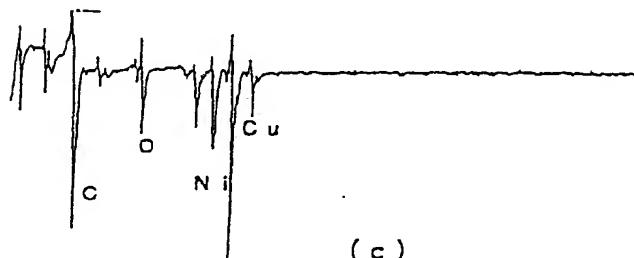
results of analysis of the surface of the annealed Ni-B alloy film



(a)



(b)



(c)

results of analysis of the surface of the annealed Ni-B alloy film

Reference No. EB2385P  
(NAME OF DOCUMENT) DRAWINGS  
(FIG. 8)

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